

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation
FINAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
TRIPOLI	LPH 10
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
IWO JIMA (LPH 2)-class amphibious assault ship (helicopter)	None
Vessel Location	Current Status
Berthed at Pier 80, Port of San Francisco (CA)	Stricken, awaiting disposal

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
15 October 2014	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
8 January 2015	Ineligible

Vessel Snapshot

Lineage	Second U.S. Navy ship to be named for the joint land-sea operation against Derna during the war between the U.S. and the Barbary state of Tripoli that resulted in the capture of that fortress city on 27 April 1805. The first was an escort carrier, CVE 64 (later a utility carrier, T-CVU 64) (1943-1959).
Displacement	18,000 tons
Length	602 feet
Beam	84 feet
Draft	29 feet

Speed	20+ knots
Propulsion	Two boilers and one geared turbine which turn a single shaft with 22,000 shaft horsepower.
Armament	3 inch twin mounts; 20mm Vulcan/Phalanx Close-in Weapons System (CIWS); 50 caliber machine guns
Laid Down	15 June 1964
Launched	31 July 1965
Built By	Ingalls Shipbuilding Yard, Pascagoula, MS
Sponsor	Mrs. Jane Cates, wife of former Marine Corps Commandant General C. B. Cates, USMC (Ret.)
Commissioned	6 August 1966, Philadelphia Naval Shipyard
Decommissioned	15 September 1995
Stricken	15 September 1995

Vessel History

Deployment Summary	<p>Designed to transport helicopters and marine corps troops to foreign shores and launch an airborne invasion by landing Marines behind enemy lines, utilizing the concept known as "Vertical Envelopment;" 12 deployments to the Western Pacific (as of 1988). Initial deployment to Operation BEACH TORCH (1967); Deployed off Vietnam (1967); Operation BOLD MARINER (1969); Supported Operation DESERT SHIELD (1990)</p> <p>Following outfitting in Philadelphia, TRIPOLI was assigned to the West Coast. TRIPOLI got her "sea legs" on the voyage that took her from Philadelphia, via the Panama Canal, to her homeport of San Diego, California. After extensive training off the coast of California, TRIPOLI departed the United States for her first Western Pacific deployment on 1 May</p>
---------------------------	---

1967.

On 18 June 1967, TRIPOLI launched its first amphibious assault. OPERATION BEACON TORCH, delivering Special Landing Force “Bravo” in the vicinity of Hoi An. On 17 September 1967, during OPERATION FORTRESS SENTRY, TRIPOLI launches the first all-boat assault from an LPH (this was due to the grounding of TRIPOLI’s helos due to weather). TRIPOLI launched OPERATION FORMATION LEADER on 17 October 1967; this was the first time CH-53 helicopters were used as the primary assault vehicle for an amphibious assault. In addition to her role as a support ship for surface forces, TRIPOLI also served as a medical facility for the immediate evacuation and treatment of wounded personnel.

On 23 December 1967, TRIPOLI arrives in San Diego, CA, ending her first deployment. On 13 August 1969, TRIPOLI took part in Operation BOLD MARINER which was hailed as the largest amphibious evolution since the Korean War. TRIPOLI entered Hunter’s Point Naval Shipyard in San Francisco, CA on 31 January 1971 for her first major overhaul and yard period. On 28 June 1972, the vessel participated in Operation LAM-SON 73 which was the insertion of Vietnamese Marines behind enemy lines near Quang Tri Province. On 18 June 1973, TRIPOLI joined Operation END SWEEP which was the last military operation of the Vietnam War. TRIPOLI provided minesweeping helicopters for clearing the Gulf of Tonkin.

Arrived on station in Guam on 26 May 1976 to provide disaster relief to victims of Typhoon Pamela – stayed on station until 1 June 1976.

On 22 April 1987, the TRIPOLI deployed for amphibious exercise KERNEL USHER 2-87, marking the first deployment of the LSD 42 class and of a Marine Amphibious Unit qualified Special Operations Capability. TRIPOLI deployed for PACEX 89 on 6 September 1989 en route to Adak, AK and Hokkaido, Japan.

On 18 February 1990 the TRIPOLI struck a mine when it was passing through the northern Persian Gulf. The explosion ripped a 20 by 30 foot hole on her starboard bow. After 20 hours of damage control, the ship made her way to Bahrain’s Arabian Ship Repair Yard where she was repaired over a 30-day time period.

Deployed from San Diego on 16 October 1992, en route to the Western Pacific for Operation DESERT STORM – SOUTHERN WATCH and Operation RESTORE HOPE. Operation RESTORE HOPE commenced on 3 December 1992 with the initial landing of Marine forces at Mogadishu, Somalia. TRIPOLI was the flagship of the Amphibious Task Force that spearheaded Operation RESTORE HOPE. The task force conducted the initial amphibious landing that secured the international airport and seaport of

	<p>Mogadishu, Somalia, on December 9. After the initial landing, the ATF continued operations in support of Operation RESTORE HOPE until February 31, 1993.</p> <p>TRIPOLI departs San Diego, CA on 9 June 1994 for its 16th and final Western pacific deployment. It arrived on station in Mombasa, Kenya, to support Operation SUPPORT HOPE (Rwandan relief efforts).</p> <p>On 9 October 1994, the vessel was sent to Kuwait as a show of force for Operation VIGILANT WARRIOR, caused by the buildup of Iraqi forces on the border of Kuwait. TRIPOLI returned to San Diego, CA on 9 December 1994, ending her Western pacific deployments.</p> <p>TRIPOLI was decommissioned on September 15, 1995. During the period of 2006-2008, the U.S. Army used ex-TRIPOLI as a missile launch site off the coast of Hawaii and for missile tracking operations. Currently, she is berthed at Pier 80, Port of San Francisco.</p>
<p>Awards</p>	<p>Awarded 9 Battle Stars for service in Vietnam conflict; 2 Combat Action Ribbons; 1 Joint Meritorious Unit Award; 4 Navy Unit Commendations; 1 Meritorious Unit Commendation; 2 Battle “E” Awards; 2 National Defense Service Medals; 1 Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; 24 Vietnam Service Medals; 4 Southwest Asia Service Medals; 2 Humanitarian Service medals; 16 Sea Service Deployment Awards; 1 Republic of Philippines Presidential Unit citation; 8 Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Commendations (Gallantry Cross Medal); 1 Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Commendation (Civic Action First Class); 1 Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal; 1 Kuwait Liberation Medal; Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy (1976); Ney Award for Food Service Excellence (1990); Timex Award for the ship that “Takes a Licking and keeps on Ticking” (1991); Best in Sales and Service Award (1992); Silver Anchor Award for Retention (1992); National Defense Transportation Association Unit Award (1992); Admiral Flatley Award for Aviation Safety (1993); Federal Energy and Water Conservation Award (Special Mobility) (1993)</p>
<p>Noteworthy Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 1982, was chosen as the test platform for the XV-15 experimental tilt-rotor aircraft, the precursor of the V-22 <i>Osprey</i>. - In 1985, while at NWS Seal beach, TRIPOLI unloaded 900 pallets of ammunition in a 24 hour period; believed to be the largest ammunition onload in LPH history. - In 1991, the vessel struck an Iraqi mine in the Persian Gulf. - Following her decommissioning, in 1997, the U.S. Army was loaned ex-TRIPOLI for use as an experimental floating missile launch platform and for missile tracking operations off the coast of Hawaii.

DANFS* Entry	Yes, but incomplete (last entry is for 1979)
---------------------	--

**Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

Criteria Evaluation¹

i. Was the vessel awarded an individual Presidential Unit Citation?	No.
ii. Did an individual act of heroism take place aboard the vessel such that an individual was subsequently awarded the Medal of Honor or the Navy Cross?	No.
iii. Was a President of the United States assigned to the vessel during his or her naval service?	No.
iv. Was the vessel was the first to incorporate engineering, weapons systems, or other upgrades that represent a revolutionary change in naval design or warfighting capabilities?	Yes; was the host ship for the Pacific Fleet introduction of the AV-8B Harrier between 17 June and 13 August 1974. Also, in 1982, was chosen as the test platform for the XV-15 experimental tilt-rotor aircraft, the precursor of the V-22 Osprey.
v. Did some other historic or socially significant event occur on board the vessel?	No.
Historic Evaluation Conclusion	Ineligible

Sources	- USS TRIPOLI Change of Command Ceremony Booklets, 21 Oct. 1988 and 29 Feb 1984
	- USS TRIPOLI Decommissioning Brochure
	- DANFS
	- Naval Vessel Register
	- 1 October 2014 telephone conversation with Denise Turner, Port of San Francisco

Historic Preservation Stakeholder Comment

Historic preservation stakeholder comments received are considered when preparing final determinations. The initial determination for this vessel was made available for comment by historic preservation stakeholders for 60 days. During that time, the Navy received no written comments.

¹ Evaluation conducted using triggers established for naval vessels in *Program Comment for the Department of Navy for the Disposition of Historic Vessels*, issued by the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation on 15 March 2010.